

Appendix B

Inventory & Evaluation Of Existing Recreational Facilities

PARKS AND FACILITIES INVENTORY

The existing recreational facilities within the City of Hollister include six City-owned and operated parks, two special use facilities, and one County park. The following paragraphs describe the City's current or planned parks:

Central Avenue Mini-Park

This recently completed 1/4-acre mini park, located on Central Avenue between Willows and Ranchito Drive, includes a half-court basketball court, an open turf area, and play apparatus. The park is well maintained. However, according to the City-wide Community Survey, only 4% of the respondents use the park, presumably because of its size and facility limitations. It is used primarily by residents in the immediate neighborhood.

Veteran's Tot Lot Mini-Park

This 1/4-acre tot lot, located on the west side of Memorial Drive adjacent to the County's Veteran's Memorial Park, contains aging play equipment, turf, and picnic tables. A landscaped pathway connecting the Marne Drive neighborhood to the tot lot has recently been completed, providing safe access to the play area. The tot lot is currently underutilized and in need of repair and updated play equipment. Improvements to this facility should be considered in the overall concept for Veteran's Park improvements.

Airport Neighborhood Park

This 3/4-acre park, located at the Hollister Airport adjacent to highway 156, includes picnic tables, barbecue grills, an open turf area, and a portable chemical toilet. Some of the barbecue grills have been damaged. Tall trees are located within the site, but they provide little relief to the consistent winds in the area. Only 9% of the Community Survey respondents said they used the park, primarily for eating lunch, walking, and children's play. Improvements to the barbecue/picnic areas and a more effective landscaped wind screen are needed.

**McCarthy Street
Neighborhood Park**

McCarthy Street park is a 1.5-acre neighborhood park located at San Andreas High School. The facilities include open turf, a parcourse around the edge of the park, and play apparatus. A new multi-use basketball court has recently been added to the park. Only 2% of the Community Survey respondents indicated that they used this park.

**Las Brisas Estates
Neighborhood Park**

This 1.0-acre neighborhood park, located at the intersection of Clearview Drive and Nezperce Drive includes a children' s play area with apparatus, an open turf area for informal play and picnic tables.

**Dunne
Community Park**

Dunne is a 3.5-acre community park located in the downtown area. It is the oldest of the City parks, and despite the need for rehabilitation, maintains an "old town" ambience. Since it is within easy walking distance to nearby residential areas and because it provides a variety of recreational opportunities, including children' s play equipment, tennis, horseshoes, picnicking and ballfields, Dunne is one of the most popular parks in the City. According to the Survey, 43% of respondents used this park. The park also features a clubhouse, a rose garden and characteristic mature trees.

The ballfields are generally too small for formal or league play. Improvements are currently being planned for Dunne, including a new walkways, improved tennis court lighting, fencing, a gazebo, a new irrigation system, play equipment and ballfield backstops. As part of this rehabilitation effort, consideration should be given to installation of innovative children' s play areas, expansion of picnic facilities, multi-use courts and new uses for the ballfield areas.

**Vista Park Hill
Community Park**

Overlooking the entire City, Vista park Hill is one of the most scenic places in the area, offering 360° panoramic views. Picnic facilities are heavily used on the weekends, but windy conditions limit use of the existing ballfield. Other facilities include and outdated children' s play area, group picnic facilities (covered tables and barbecue building), horseshoe pits and restrooms.

Of the 15 total acres only about three acres are fully developed. Much of the remaining land area consists of steep slopes surrounding the developed hilltop. In addition to the 15 acres of parkland, Vista Park Hill supports various institutional uses located in an aging building complex to the east of the developed park area. The park could be redesigned and rehabilitated in conjunction with improvements or new uses at the building complex, such as art and dance studios. Various park improvements might be considered including a new children' s area, expansion of picnic facilities, potential new uses for the ballfield area, improved access and better wind breaks and vista points.

**Calaveras
Community Park**

This seven-acre multi-use community park adjacent to Calaveras includes a softball/soccer field, children' s area, tot lot, family picnic areas, a group picnic pavilion, a turf amphitheater with stage, restroom, and parking lot.

**Veteran's Memorial
County Park**

The only County park in the City, located along both sides of Memorial Drive between Hillcrest Road and Sunnyslope School, Veteran' s Memorial is a 35 acre park which is partially developed. The larger east side of the park (33 acres) includes active sports facilities, such as baseball, softball and tennis. The ballfields, restrooms, concession stand and the Bertha Briggs Memorial Youth Center were build, paid for and operated by individual private organizations, such as Little League and Babe Ruth baseball. The County provides general maintenance, including mowing, irrigation and garbage removal. City adult softball league games and tournaments are held in this park.

Family and group picnic facilities and horseshoe pits area are located on the 2-acre strip of land west of Memorial Drive. The City' s plans to widen Memorial Drive adjacent to the park, will eliminate some of this parkland.

The park lacks overall organization and identity due to the separation by Memorial Drive. Landscaping is minimal except for a few street trees along the east side of Memorial Drive. There are no park trees to provide shade or

visual interest. On the east side, ample space is provided in the unpaved areas adjacent to the ballfields.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Rancho San Justo Sports Facility

Rancho San Justo is used primarily for active sports league play. This 13-acre facility operated jointly with the Hollister school District, includes softball fields, soccer fields, a football field and a track. Improvement to the facility, including paving of the parking lot, lighting of the softball and soccer fields, and construction of a restroom/storage facility is expected to be completed in 1990. The facility is well used and well maintained and received a positive response in the Community Survey.

Hollister Community Center

The 10,000 square-foot Community Center, built in 1980, is located at West Street and Fremont Way at the foot of Vista park Hill. It accommodates the Recreation Department offices, the majority of recreation classes and programs, and daily senior activities and programs. Special community events, such as Teen Dances and Kids Night out, and annual events, such as Community Flea Market and Pinecones and Poinsettias, are held at the Center. The building is nearly always used to capacity, and demand for additional programs continues to increase.

SPORTS & SPECIFIC USE FACILITIES

A summary of the active sports facilities in the City, including softball fields, baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, swimming pools and gymnasiums, is illustrated in Table 5. The future requirements for these sports/specific use facilities are calculated assuming slightly higher levels of service than exist today. These requirements will need ongoing evaluation as sports participants needs and interests fluctuate.

School facilities are taken into account when they are available to the public for athletic use during non-school hours. This occurs primarily at elementary and middle schools; at the high school level, scholastic sports use limit the availability and flexibility in scheduling for public use.

The final column in table 5 indicates the number of additional sports/specific use facilities which Hollister would need to maintain and slightly improve the level of service now available in the year 2010. The table indicates an additional 9 softball fields, 5 baseball fields and 12 soccer fields (all designed for league play); 8 new tennis courts; 16 outdoor basketball courts; 9 holes of golf; one outdoor theater; one major community pool and gymnasium complex; and one community center.

Ballfields Lighted softball fields used for league and tournament play are provided at Veteran's Memorial Park and Rancho San Justo Sports Facility. The fields at R. O. Harden School, Calavaras School and Vista Park Hill are suitable practice facilities. An additional four acres of turf and irrigation is planned for R. O. Harding to accommodate two softball/soccer field combinations. Another softball/soccer field will be available when Calavaras Park is completed.

Soccer Fields Facilities available for soccer use are located at Rancho San Justo Sports Facility, and will soon be available at R. O. Harden School and Calavaras School. Lighting has recently been completed at Rancho San Justo to accommodate night league play.

Tennis Courts Six lighted tennis courts are available to the public at Dunne Park and Veteran's Memorial Park. However, the lights at Veteran's Park are frequently inoperable. Recreation Department tennis programs and classes are offered at Dunne Park. Improvements to the courts at Dunne Park are planned.

Basketball Courts Outdoor basketball courts are available at McCarthy Street Park (1.0), Central Avenue Park (.5), Calavaras School (3.0), Sunnyslope School (2.0), R. O. Hardin (6.5), Fremont School (1.5), Rancho San Justo School (8.0) and San Benito Joint Union High School (4.0).

Swimming Pools The only swimming pool in the City, located at San Benito Joint Union High School, is available to the public for recreational swimming during the summer months only. U.S. Swim Club uses the facility year-round. The desire for an additional pool is clearly demonstrated by a response by the Community Survey; 74% of the respondents indicated that a pool was needed.

Gymnasium Access to gymnasium space is severely limited in Hollister. The only public gymnasium in the County is O'Donnell Gymnasium at San Benito Joint Union High School, and it is available for adult league basketball Sunday afternoons only. A

new high school gym is currently under construction and will be completed by Spring 1990. A gymnasium is also located at Sacred Heart Catholic School; however, the hard tile floor is not a regulation size. Need for a gymnasium was mentioned by 16% of the Community Survey respondents as a facility they would like to see offered at a new community center.

Public Golf Courses 45 holes of golf are located within 7 miles of Hollister. Two 18 hole public golf courses are located at Ridgemark Golf and Country Club and one 9 hole public course is located at Bolado Park Golf Club.

Outdoor Theatre An outdoor theatre with natural berm seating is planned for Calaveras School Park. This facility will be completed by Spring 1990.